Humboldt County Economic Forecast

Humboldt County is home to the largest and oldest redwood trees in the world, and the county's timber resources support the largest lumber industry in the state. In addition, the commercial and sport fishing industry are also significant factors in the county's economy. Natural resources make Humboldt County a primary tourist destination as well; popular sites include the Six Rivers National Forest, Redwoods National Park, and Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

The population of Humboldt County was 127,800 in July of 2001, an increase over the 1990 Census estimate of 5,300 people, or 4.3 percent. Most of the county's population reside in cities around Humboldt Bay since most of the jobs are in this area. Within the county, the largest cities are Eureka, Arcata, and Fortuna. Eureka, the county seat, reported a population of 26,300 in 2001.
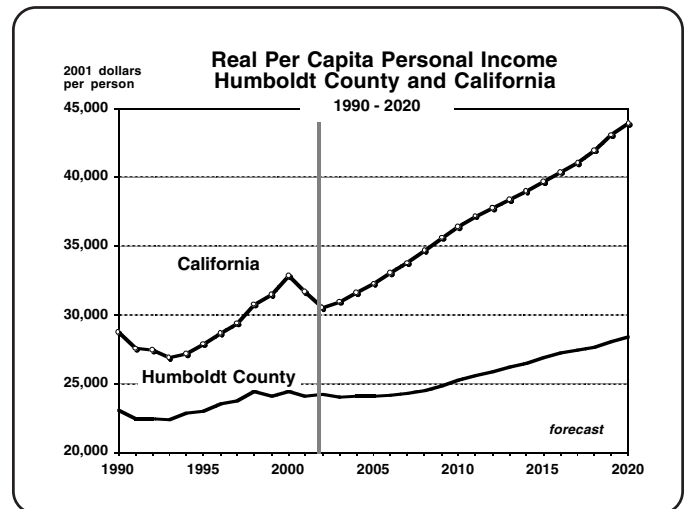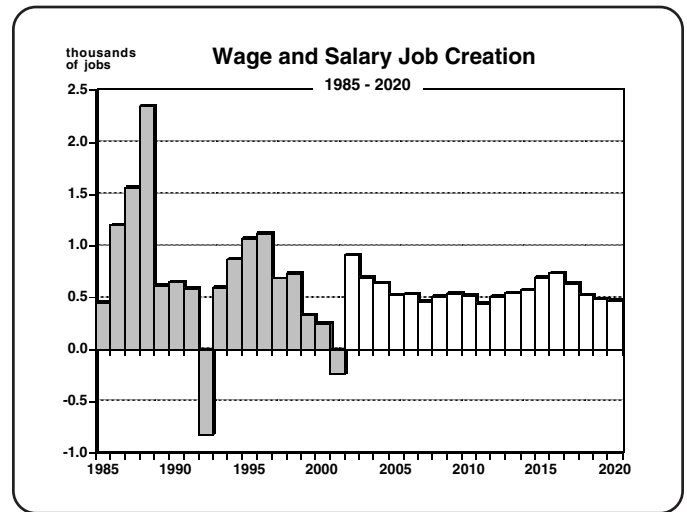
By the year 2010, Humboldt County's population is forecast to exceed 134,000, implying a compound annual growth rate of 0.5 percent. The county's annual average unemployment rate for 2001 was 6.1 percent and, while higher than the state's rate of 5.2 percent, it has steadily declined since 1993.

Historically, the lumber and wood products industry, together with the fishing industry, dominated Humboldt County's resource based economy. Though many are still employed in logging and fishing, recent employment activity has reflected a shift toward occupations in education, manufacturing and tourism industries. Currently, government, services, retail trade, and manufacturing are the largest industries in the county.

The government and services sectors currently employ about 52 percent of the total employment in the County. In fact, they have nearly equal shares at 25.4 percent for the services, and 26.4 percent for the government sector. Within government, federal, state and local governments operate parks in recreational areas as well as national forests and range lands.

Forecast Highlights

• Non-farm job growth is forecast to rise 1.1 percent per year over the next 5 years. The principal sectors of growth occur in government and services. An average of 700 non-farm jobs per year are created between 2002 and 2007.

Wage and Salary Job Creation
1985 - 2020

Real Per Capita Personal Income
Humboldt County and California
1990 - 2020

• Due to an increase the population of 20 to 40 year olds, a greater number of births is forecast over the next 10 years. Furthermore, continued positive net-migration pushes population growth higher, to an average 0.6 percent per year. The number of new in-migrants is forecast to average 633 persons per year. Between 1995 and 2000, population growth in Humboldt County was virtually zero.

• An average of 500 new residential units are authorized each year over the next 5 years. This contrasts with the average 400 units built per year between 1995 and 2000 in Humboldt County.

Population Growth
1980 - 2020
percent change

Net Migration
1980 - 2020
inmigrants minus outmigrants
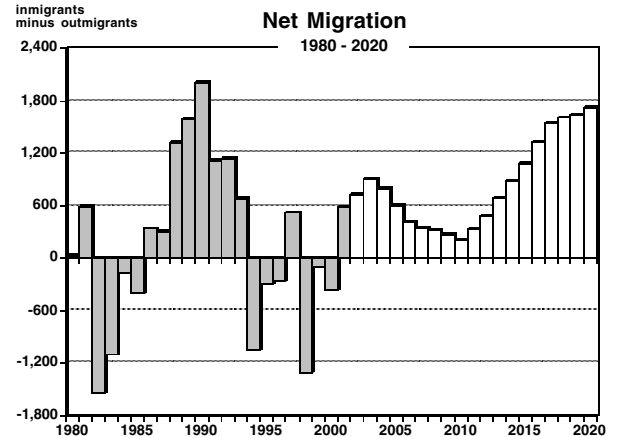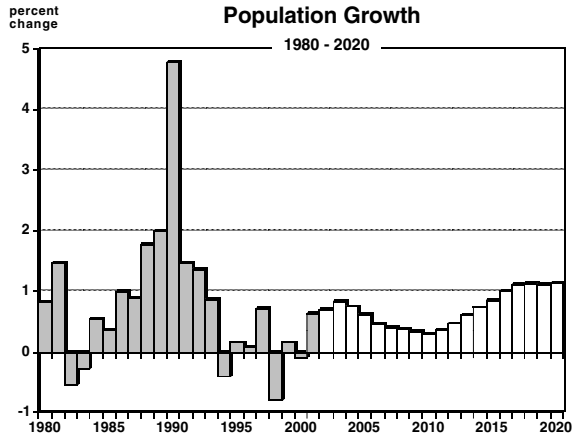
Humboldt County Economic Forecast
1995-2001 History, 2002-2020 Forecast

	Population (people)	Net Migration (people)	Registered Vehicles (thousands)	Households (thousands)	New Homes Permitted (homes)	Retail Sales (millions)	Personal Income (millions)	Real Per Capita Income (dollars)	Farm Crop Value (millions)	Industrial Production (millions)
1995	126,900	-290	124	49.4	506	$0.7	$2.3	$23,026	$67	$1.2
1996	127,000	-260	126	50.0	396	$0.8	$2.4	$23,566	$72	$1.3
1997	127,900	524	118	50.4	462	$0.8	$2.6	$23,759	$80	$1.4
1998	126,900	-1,315	123	50.9	373	$0.8	$2.7	$24,403	$83	$1.3
1999	127,100	-103	124	51.3	404	$0.9	$2.8	$24,041	$93	$1.6
2000	127,000	-356	128	51.1	373	$0.9	$2.9	$24,381	$97	$1.6
2001	127,800	590	131	51.5	464	$1.0	$3.1	$24,068	$100	$1.5
2002	128,685	729	132	51.3	478	$1.0	$3.3	$24,179	$93	$1.5
2003	129,765	913	132	51.7	522	$1.1	$3.4	$23,987	$97	$1.6
2004	130,737	791	133	52.2	538	$1.1	$3.6	$24,083	$101	$1.6
2005	131,538	607	133	52.7	524	$1.2	$3.7	$24,063	$104	$1.6
2006	132,152	417	134	53.1	502	$1.2	$3.9	$24,149	$109	$1.7
2007	132,689	343	135	53.6	483	$1.3	$4.1	$24,274	$113	$1.7
2008	133,195	317	136	54.0	475	$1.3	$4.3	$24,557	$117	$1.7
2009	133,652	270	137	54.4	474	$1.4	$4.6	$24,867	$122	$1.7
2010	134,042	212	138	54.9	471	$1.5	$4.8	$25,251	$127	$1.8
2011	134,535	330	139	55.3	466	$1.6	$5.1	$25,565	$133	$1.9
2012	135,168	485	139	55.7	478	$1.7	$5.4	$25,867	$138	$1.9
2013	135,986	687	140	56.1	498	$1.8	$5.7	$26,215	$144	$1.9
2014	136,983	886	141	56.6	522	$1.9	$6.1	$26,524	$150	$2.0
2015	138,151	1,086	141	57.0	545	$2.0	$6.5	$26,892	$157	$2.0
2016	139,534	1,335	142	57.5	572	$2.1	$6.9	$27,213	$163	$2.0
2017	141,089	1,542	143	58.0	601	$2.2	$7.3	$27,409	$171	$2.0
2018	142,676	1,608	144	58.6	622	$2.3	$7.7	$27,697	$178	$2.1
2019	144,266	1,647	145	59.1	627	$2.5	$8.3	$28,099	$186	$2.1
2020	145,902	1,725	145	59.7	631	$2.6	$8.8	$28,408	$193	$2.2

Real Industrial Production
1990 - 2020

average annual percent change

Industrial and Farm Production Indices
1988 - 2020

inflation-adjusted index (1988=100)

forecast

Industrial
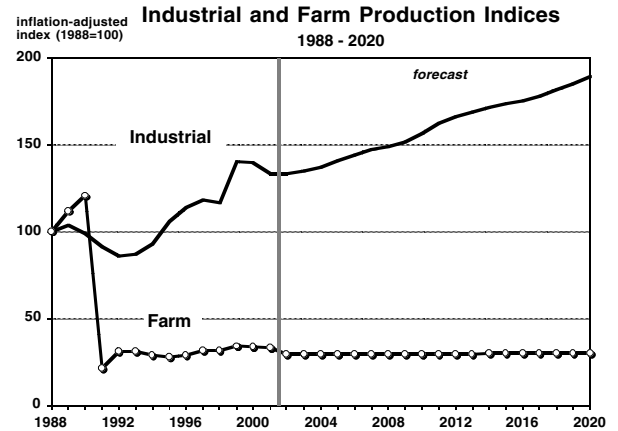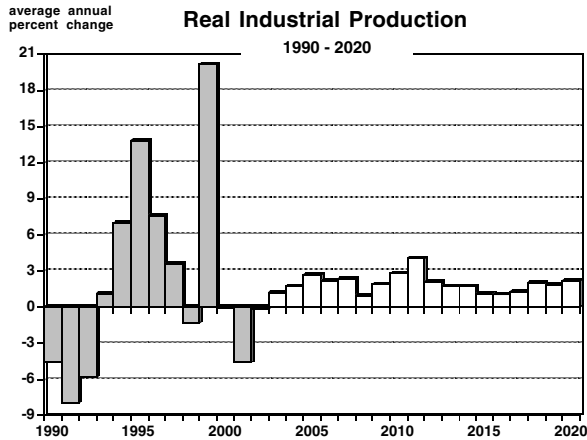
Farm

Total Wage & Salary (000)	Farm (000)	Mining & Construction (000)	Manufacturing (000)	Transportation, Utilities (000)	Wholesale, Retail Trade (000)	Finance, Real Estate (000)	Services (000)	Government (000)
---				employment (jobs)				---
47.2	0.9	1.7	6.9	1.9	11.7	1.8	11.5	10.9
48.3	0.9	1.7	7.0	2.0	11.9	1.8	11.8	11.1
49.0	1.0	1.7	6.7	2.0	11.7	1.9	12.4	11.6
49.8	1.0	1.7	6.4	2.1	11.7	2.1	12.8	11.9
50.1	0.9	1.9	6.0	2.1	11.8	2.2	13.2	12.1
50.3	1.1	1.7	5.9	1.9	12.0	2.2	12.7	12.8
50.1	1.0	1.8	5.3	1.9	12.2	2.0	12.7	13.3
51.0	1.0	1.8	5.3	1.8	12.3	2.0	13.3	13.5
51.7	1.1	1.7	5.3	1.8	12.4	2.0	13.7	13.8
52.4	1.1	1.7	5.3	1.8	12.4	2.0	14.0	14.0
52.9	1.1	1.7	5.3	1.8	12.5	2.1	14.2	14.2
53.4	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.8	12.5	2.1	14.5	14.4
53.9	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	12.6	2.2	14.7	14.6
54.4	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	12.6	2.2	14.9	14.8
54.9	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	12.7	2.3	15.1	15.0
55.5	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	12.8	2.3	15.2	15.2
55.9	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	12.9	2.4	15.4	15.3
56.4	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	13.1	2.5	15.5	15.5
57.0	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	13.2	2.5	15.7	15.7
57.6	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	13.4	2.5	16.0	15.8
58.3	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	13.5	2.6	16.3	16.0
59.0	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	13.7	2.6	16.6	16.2
59.6	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	13.9	2.7	16.8	16.4
60.2	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.7	14.1	2.7	16.9	16.6
60.6	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.6	14.2	2.7	17.0	16.8
61.1	1.1	1.7	5.4	1.6	14.4	2.8	17.1	16.9

Real Taxable Retail Sales

billions of
2001 dollars

1980 - 2020

Total Registered Vehicles

thousands of
vehicles

1980 - 2020

Employment in Manufacturing

thousands
of jobs

1988 - 2020

forecast

Durable
Manufacturing

Non-durable
Manufacturing

Employment in Services

thousands
of jobs

1985 - 2020

New Residential Units

units
permitted

1980 - 2020

Real Earnings per Worker
Humboldt County and California

2001 dollars
per worker

1990 - 2020

California

Humboldt
County

forecast